

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed October 31, 2007. Claims 1-12 remain in this application. Claim 1 is in independent form. In view of the amendments above and the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,994,839 – Yamamoto.

Regarding original claim 1, the Office Action states Yamamoto teaches in figures 1- 3 and the corresponding text, a high pressure discharge lamp comprising: a discharge vessel (1) enclosing a discharge space (no number) which contains an ionizable filling, the discharge vessel (1) having a first (2) and a second (2) mutually opposed neck-shaped portion with a pair of electrodes (7a, 7b) arranged in the discharge space, each electrode being tubular over its entire length, at least one of the electrodes being directly coupled at an end not arranged in the discharge space, to a rod (19) which is coupled at a distal end to a current-supply conductor (20), a melting-ceramic joint (18) being provided between the current-supply conductor, the rod and a wall of the respective first and a second mutually opposed neck-shaped portions, thereby providing a gas-tight closure of the discharge space.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, however, Independent Claim 1 has been amended herein to better define Applicant's invention over Yamamoto. Claim 1 now recites limitations and/or features which are not disclosed by Yamamoto.

Claim 1 as amended reads:

1. A high-pressure discharge lamp comprising: a discharge vessel (10) enclosing a discharge space (11) which contains an ionizable filling, the discharge vessel (10) having a first (2) and a second (3) mutually opposed neck-shaped portion provided with a pair of electrodes (6, 7) arranged in protruding substantially into the discharge space (13), each electrode (6, 7) being tubular over its entire length, at least one of the electrodes (6, 7) being directly coupled at an end not arranged in the discharge space, to a rod (15) which is coupled at a distal end to a current-supply conductor (5), a melting-ceramic joint (21) being provided between the current-supply conductor (5), the rod (15) and a wall of the respective first (2) and a second (3) mutually opposed neck-shaped portions, thereby providing a gas-tight closure of the discharge space.

As shown in Fig. 1a of the present application, the pair of electrodes (6, 7) extend substantially into the discharge space 11. By contrast, the two electrodes, shown in Fig. 1 of Yamamoto, namely, 7a and 7b, fall substantially outside of the discharge space. It can be reasonably estimated that no more than 1-2% of the electrode length falls inside of the discharge space in Yamamoto, as compared to greater than 50% regarding the electrodes of the invention.

Claim 1 is further distinguishable from Yamamoto in that the high-pressure discharge lamp of Yamamoto does not include a rod (15) positioned between current-supply conductor (4, 5) and the tubular electrodes (6, 7) (see Fig. 1B). The rod is preferably made of molybdenum or cermet. The neck-shaped portion (2, 3) closely surrounding the tubular electrode (4, 5) and the Mo rod 15 with clearance.

A further point of distinction between Yamamoto and the invention is the melting-ceramic joint 21 provided between the current-supply conductor 5, the Mo rod 15, and the wall of the neck-shaped portion 3, thereby providing a gas-tight closure of the discharge space 11 in the discharge vessel 10. It is respectfully submitted that there is no teaching or suggestion in Yamamoto of a melting-ceramic joint 21 provided between the current-supply conductor 5, the Mo rod 15, and the wall of the neck-shaped portion 3, for providing a gas-tight closure of the discharge space.

Accordingly, it is believed that Applicant's Claim 1, as amended, recites patentable subject matter, and therefore, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claim 1 and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 9, 10, 11 and 12 depend from Claim 1 and therefore include the limitations of Claim 1. Accordingly, for the same reasons given above for Claim 1, Claims 3-5 and 8 are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claims 2, 9, 10, 11 and 12 and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3-5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pollard in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,558,964 to White.

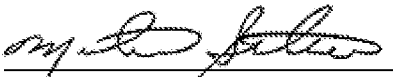
Claims 3-5 and 8 depend from Claim 1 and therefore include the limitations of Claim 1. Accordingly, for the same reasons given above for Claim 1, Claims 3-5 and 8 are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claims 3-5 and 8 and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1- 12 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Frank Keegan, Esq., Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America, at 914-333-9669.

Respectfully submitted,



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